



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**



## Horizon Scanning Technology Prioritising Summary

ProACT™ Therapy for male stress urinary  
incontinence

September 2006  
(Updated October 2007 and November 2008)



**Australian  
Safety  
and Efficacy  
Register  
of New  
Interventional  
Procedures -  
Surgical**



**Royal Australasian  
College of Surgeons**



© Commonwealth of Australia [2006]

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, all other rights are reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to Commonwealth Copyright Administration, Attorney General's Department, Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Canberra ACT 2600 or posted at <http://www.ag.gov.au/cca>

Electronic copies can be obtained from <http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au>

Enquiries about the content of the report should be directed to:

HealthPACT Secretariat  
Department of Health and Ageing  
MDP 106  
GPO Box 9848  
Canberra ACT 2606  
AUSTRALIA

**DISCLAIMER:** This report is based on information available at the time of research and cannot be expected to cover any developments arising from subsequent improvements to health technologies. This report is based on a limited literature search and is not a definitive statement on the safety, effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of the health technology covered.

The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information in this report. This report is not intended to be used as medical advice and it is not intended to be used to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease, nor should it be used for therapeutic purposes or as a substitute for a health professional's advice. The Commonwealth does not accept any liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred by use of or reliance on the information.

The production of this Horizon scanning prioritising summary was overseen by the Health Policy Advisory Committee on Technology (HealthPACT), a sub-committee of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). HealthPACT comprises representatives from health departments in all states and territories, the Australia and New Zealand governments; MSAC and ASERNIP-S. The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) supports HealthPACT through funding.

This Horizon scanning prioritising summary was prepared by Mr. Luis Zamora from the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S).



### Name of Technology:

ProACT™ Therapy for male stress urinary incontinence (Uromedica Inc., Plymouth, MN, USA).

### Purpose and Target Group:

ProACT Therapy is designed for the treatment of male long-term stress urinary incontinence resulting from sphincter deficiency following radical prostatectomy (RP) for prostate cancer or transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

### Stage of Development (in Australia):

- Experimental
- Investigational
- Nearly established
- Established
- Established but changed indication or modification of technique
- Should be taken out of use

The ProACT Therapy system is registered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG number: 104496, Product ID: 181942). Although the device was developed by Uromedica Inc. it is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd.

### International Utilisation:

COUNTRY	LEVEL OF USE		
	Trials underway	Limited use	Widely diffused
United States	✓		
Europe		✓	
Australia		✓	

### Impact Summary:

#### *Background*

Urine is produced in the kidneys then flows down the ureters into the bladder where it is stored (National Association for Continence 2005). Urination is controlled by the urinary sphincter, rings of muscles at the base of the bladder and wall of the urethra (tube that connects the bladder to the tip of the penis) (National Association for Continence 2005, UPMC Cancer Centers 2006). When the bladder is full, relaxation of the sphincter in conjunction with contraction of the bladder muscle (detrusor) allows urine to flow out (National Association for Continence 2005). When urination is complete and when the



bladder is not full the sphincter contracts and the detrusor relaxes (National Association for Continence 2005).

Urinary incontinence is the inability to hold urine in the bladder and prevent involuntary leaking or dribbling (UPMC Cancer Centers 2006). Urinary incontinence in men can sometimes result from conditions of the prostate (an exocrine gland that surrounds the urethra just below the bladder) and their treatment (UPMC Cancer Centers 2006). In young men, the prostate is approximately the size of a walnut (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality 2000). As men age the prostate naturally enlarges (US Department of Health and Human Services 2004). Continued growth of the prostate can lead to a non-cancerous prostate enlargement (benign prostatic hypertrophy, BPH), inflammation of the prostate (prostatitis) or prostate cancer (US Department of Health and Human Services 2004). As the prostate becomes larger, it tightens around the bladder outlet and restricts the urethra, creating bladder flow obstruction (US Department of Health and Human Services 2004). In such cases the bladder has to work harder to force out urine and could result in thickening of the bladder wall and potentially cause the bladder to become unstable or over-reactive (US Department of Health and Human Services 2004). The surgery required for the treatment of prostate cancer (radical prostatectomy) or BPH (transurethral resection of the prostate) can sometimes result in sphincteric injury and can lead to postoperative urinary incontinence (Rassweiler *et al.* 2006). In most cases postoperative incontinence is short term and most men regain continence within weeks or months following surgery, however, few men will experience long term or permanent incontinence. Although the mechanism of postoperative incontinence can be through incompetent sphincter mechanism, detrusor instability and bladder neck obstruction, usually long term incontinence is associated with sphincter injury (Palmer *et al.* 2003).

Patients can suffer from different forms of urinary incontinence, including (Palmer *et al.* 2003, National Association for Continence 2005):

- Total incontinence: the complete inability to control leakage of urine.
- Overflow incontinence: occurs when the bladder overflows when it is too full, it can occur when blockage or narrowing of the bladder outlet by cancer or scar tissue (normally resulting from BPH) preventing complete emptying.
- Urge incontinence: urine leakage without warning, resulting from an over reactive bladder.
- Stress incontinence: leakage of urine resulting from activity that strains or stresses the bladder e.g. lifting, sneezing or exercises. Most common form of long term/permanent incontinence following sphincteric damage during surgery.

There are also various management and treatment options for sufferers of urinary incontinence. These options range from the use of sanitary pads and disposable underwear to the surgical option of an Artificial Urinary Sphincter (AUS), which is the current standard treatment for stress urinary incontinence (Palmer *et al.* 2003, Hubner and Schlarp 2006,



Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006). Although treatment may be effective, the implantation of an AUS presents the possible complications of mechanical failure, infections and erosions (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002). Furthermore, complete continence over the long term is rarely achieved and revision surgery is often required after some years, exposing the patient to further risk (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002).

The ProACT Therapy system consists of a set of two post-operatively adjustable balloons attached to a titanium port via a short length of tubing (Uromedica 2006). They are inserted via a perineal approach bilaterally in a peri-urethral position at the bladder neck or at the apex of the prostatic remnant (Uromedica 2006). The titanium ports, which are sited in the scrotum allow for future percutaneous volume adjustments of the balloons using a fine gauge needle. The implant is designed to increase coaption of the urethra and lift the bladder neck, helping to improve continence (Uromedica 2006). The required implantation procedure is minimally invasive and is able to be performed with general or spinal anaesthesia (Uromedica 2006).

### ***Clinical Need and Burden of Disease***

For men who undergo prostate surgery urinary incontinence is a significant problem, which can have a serious impact on their lives (Palmer *et al.* 2003). The effects of urinary incontinence can be profound and affect a person's social, emotional and physical well being (National Association for Continence 2005).

Unfortunately due to inconsistent definitions of the term 'urinary incontinence', varying data collection methods (subjective versus objective reporting), and lack of a reliable source of information, it is difficult to accurately report the incidence or prevalence of urinary incontinence (Palmer *et al.* 2003, Sacco *et al.* 2006). A recent study, however, reported that following prostate surgery 30% to 40% of patients suffer early incontinence (usually urge incontinence) whereas less than 0.5% of patients suffer late stress incontinence (Rassweiler *et al.* 2006). In another study of radical prostatectomy patients, 8.4% of men were reported incontinent 18 months after surgery (nature of the incontinence was not specified) (Stanford *et al.* 2006). Similarly, Peyromaure and colleagues reported in 2002 that post-operative urinary incontinence following radical prostatectomy affects approximately 5% to 30% of patients (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002).

Most patients who suffer early incontinence following radical prostatectomy will regain continence within 2 years (Sacco *et al.* 2006). This is because early incontinence is usually caused by bladder instability and is successfully treated with physiotherapy and anticholinergic medication (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002). Persistent, long term incontinence, however, is usually stress incontinence in nature and more difficult to treat (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002). It is in these cases where surgical implantation of an Artificial Urinary Sphincter (AUS) may be required (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002). Patients with incontinence due to intrinsic sphincter deficiency, and those with intrinsic sphincter deficiency associated with bladder



over reactivity make up the majority of patients suffering from long term post radical prostatectomy urinary incontinence (Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006).

Although there are no official figures for the prevalence of male urinary incontinence in Australia, estimates have been put at 2.2% or 216,000 men suffering some degree of urinary incontinence (Chiarelli *et al.* 2005). A smaller fraction than this will experience long term stress urinary incontinence as a result of prostate surgery. However, as the Australian population ages and the detection of prostate diseases improve, there is the potential for greater numbers of men being affected by post-surgery urinary incontinence, both long and short term.

### ***Estimated Speed, Geographic and Practitioner Use, Patterns of Diffusion in the Health System***

At the time of writing, the ProACT Therapy system is restricted to investigational use only in the United States (Uromedica Inc. 2006). Outside of the United States however, the ProACT Therapy system is being evaluated for safety and effectiveness in the clinical trial 'Clinical Investigation of the ProACT Adjustable Continence Therapy for Treatment of Post-Prostatectomy Stress Urinary Incontinence' (ClinicalTrials.gov 2006). Currently, the investigators are recruiting patients across several centres in the United States, Canada and New Zealand; the study is expected to be completed in January 2009 (ClinicalTrials.gov 2006).

The ProACT Therapy system has already being approved for clinical use in the European market and is distributed throughout Europe, Canada, Brazil, Malaysia and Australasia through a variety of distributors (Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006, Uromedica 2006).

### ***Existing Comparators***

- Medications (UPMC Cancer Centers 2006):
  - Decongestants
  - Anticholinergic medication nerves to prevent bladder spasms, sometimes used for urge incontinence
- Biofeedback (UPMC Cancer Centers 2006)
- Injection therapy (Peyromaure *et al.* 2002): retrograde or antegrade injection of substances (e.g. autologous fat, Teflon, silicone, collagen) in region of external sphincter
- Surgical (Hubner and Schlarp 2006, Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006):
  - Male sling: supports the bulbar urethra, helps to achieve effective adynamic urethral resistance
  - Artificial urinary sphincter: Considered the gold standard treatment option for men with stress incontinence caused in intrinsic sphincter deficiency.



### ***Estimated Cost Impact***

Specific costs for the ProACT device or the implantation procedure were not revealed in the searches conducted. However, the manufacturer has suggested that due to the simpler mechanism of the ProACT device compared to the AUS, ProACT Therapy would offer significant cost reductions (Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006).

The Medicare Benefits Schedule item numbers, reimbursements and number of claims between July 2005 and June 2006 for treatments of male urinary incontinence are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1 Year 2006 Medical Benefits Schedule of Fees for Treatment of Male Urinary Incontinence**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Number of Claims July 2005 to June 2006</b>
Periurethral or transurethral injection of materials for the treatment of urinary incontinence.*	37339	\$207.60	652
Sling operation for stress incontinence, with or without mesh or tape.*	35599	\$583.75	5016
Division or removal or urethral sling for urethral obstruction or erosion, following previous surgery for urinary incontinence.	37341	\$788.70	76
Sling procedure for bladder stress incontinence, using autologous fascial sling, including harvesting, with or without mesh.*	37042	\$788.70	226

\* Indicates combined number of claims for men and women.

### ***Efficacy and Safety Issues***

#### **List of Studies Found**

Total number of studies 5

Case series studies 5

The studies included in this summary are highlighted in bold in the reference list.

Safety and efficacy data from 5 case series studies have been selected for inclusion in this summary. Two studies were presented as peer reviewed publications while the remaining three studies were conference abstracts therefore more data may become available when studies are fully reported.

### ***Safety***

Hubner and Schlarp (2005) evaluated the safety and efficacy of the ProACT Therapy system in 117 consecutive men (median age 70 years). The study begun using first generation



balloons of the implant (implanted in the first 50 patients) but later switched to the use of second generation re-engineered balloons (remainder of patients) following concerns about fluid leakages. Of the 117 men, 110 had post-RP incontinence, 6 post-TURP incontinence and 1 post-radical cystectomy and orthotopic neobladder. The median period of incontinence was 33 months (range: 3 to 180 months) and 87% of men had been incontinent for over a year prior to implantation of the device.

The implantation procedure was uneventful in 96 men, however, 15 suffered urethral or bladder perforations and the outcome of 6 men was not reported. In the 15 men who suffered complications, the ProACT device was implanted contra laterally to the perforation. The affected side was later implanted 1 to 4 months later.

Post-operatively, seven men (6%) experienced urinary retention on the day following implantation, which was successfully resolved through the withdrawal of a small amount of the balloon filling fluid via the injection ports. Twenty-one patients experienced 24 balloon ruptures (20 first generation balloons and four second generation balloons), all of which were successfully replaced one to two months later. No further complications from the rupture of the balloons were reported. Seventeen implant migrations (16 unilateral, one bilateral) were also reported in 16 patients but were successfully repositioned. Erosion of the urethra and bladder was also reported in 13 patients (11 unilateral, two bilateral). In these patients removal of the implants was required followed by re-implantation six weeks later. Additionally, 31 more explantations due to non-response were performed without any complications.

The results from this study showed a decrease in the rate of revision surgery as greater numbers of patients were treated, which as argued by the authors reflects the development of the device and the short learning curve associated with the use of the device.

In a smaller study, Trigo-Rocha and colleagues (2006) observed similar intra-operative and post-operative complications as Hubner and Schlarp (2005). The patient sample included 25 men (mean age 68.6 years) suffering severe stress urinary incontinence for a mean of 40 months post prostatectomy, who received implantation of the ProACT device. Intra-operative perforation of the bladder occurred on two occasions during implantation, resulting in unilateral implantation on the non-affected side (second balloon was later implanted). Despite this, patients were able to be discharged on the first post-operative day. Post-operative follow-up for a mean of 22.4 months (range: six to 48 months) was performed for 23 patients (one lost to follow-up and one death). The death was a result of myocardial infarction and considered unrelated to treatment, but no details are given. Urinary retention during the early post-operative period was observed in one patient and was successfully corrected by removal of 0.5 ml of filling solution from each balloon without the need for anaesthesia. Four revision surgeries were also required. It was not stated whether generation I or generation II balloons were used. Finally, two patients presented with detrusor over activity which was successfully treated within six months with anticholinergic medication.



An abstract from Gilling *et al.* 2005 of 203 patients in seven international centres evaluated the effects of ProACT Therapy implantation on Incontinence Quality of Life (IQoL) and daily pad usage over a period of 24 months. Although specific rates of intra-operative or post-operative complications were not reported, revision surgery was required in 36 out of 172 patients (20.9%) resulting from a combination of erosion, device migration or non-response to initial surgery.

A further study presented as an abstract by Kastler *et al.* (2006) of a multi-centre evaluation of 58 patients (51 post RP, four post TURP and two post 'other' prostatectomies) evaluated the effect of ProACT Therapy implantation on the mean urethral closure pressure, daily pad usage and mean IQoL for a median follow-up of 14 months. The time since surgery was highly variable: 0.5 - 20.6 years. In this study, a total of 16 patients required explantation throughout the study period (two for infection, one for urinary retention, one for pain, one for urethral erosion, two for defective balloons, eight for non-response and one not specified). Four patients required re-implantation (reasons not reported) which proceeded uneventfully.

The final abstract detailing a study of 30 post-RP and seven post-benign surgery patients followed up for a mean of 18.9 months in the RP group and 27.8 months in the post-benign group (Gilling *et al.* 2006). In this sample of patients infection and balloon migrations occurred in three and two occasions respectively. In all cases however successful management of the events was achieved by outpatient removal of the device and later re-implantation.

The current available literature on the ProACT system suggests that the device is safe for implantation. However as the studies presented suggest there are recurring safety issues with the device, namely post-operative complications such as the migration of the device and erosion of the urethra or the bladder. Though these complications were able to be corrected through removal and later re-implantation of the device in most cases this presents an added risk to the patient as a result of the re-implantation procedure. Intra-operatively, implantation of the device is not reported as overly difficult and successful implantation may increase as surgeons familiarise themselves with the procedure (Hubner *et al.* 2005). Further studies investigating the long term (more than two year) effects of the ProACT Therapy system are required to determine any long term advantage of the ProACT Therapy system over other treatment options. Additionally, RCT or comparative studies are required to compare differences in rates of complications between ProACT Therapy and other treatment options.



## *Efficacy*

Efficacy of the ProACT Therapy system was primarily evaluated through the attainment of continence, improvement in IQoL and uro-dynamic evaluation. However, a lack of definition of the term 'continent' by some of the studies presented prevents any combination of results to form a conclusion regarding the efficacy of the ProACT Therapy system.

The case series study by Hubner and colleagues (2005) of 117 patients (110 post-RP, six post-TURP, one after radical cystectomy and neobladder) reported implantation time of the device to range from 14 to 56 minutes for all patients. However the authors noted that as experienced was gained by the surgeons implantation time decreased to less than 20 minutes for the last 20 patients. Post-operatively, just over one third (36 of 117) patients did not experience satisfactory (definition for 'satisfactory' was not stated) results and in these the device was successfully removed. Patients then either received an AUS (28 patients), declined further treatment (three patients) or were lost to follow-up (five patients).

Only five men experienced full continence and required no adjustment of balloon volume on the first day after surgery. The remaining 112 (96%) required a median of three (range: one to 15) volume adjustments to achieve satisfactory results. At implantation the median balloon volume was 2 ml (range: 0.5 to 7.5 ml) while the final mean volume after all adjustments in patients who were deemed to have experienced success was 3.5 ml (range: 1 to 10 ml). Patients were followed up for a mean of 13 months (range: three to 54 months) with time points at baseline, one, three, six, 12 and 24 months. During this period there was a significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) improvement in all time points for the number of pads used daily compared with baseline. At baseline, a mean of 5.6 pads per day (range: one to 24 pads per day) in 117 patients improved to a mean of 2.5 pads per day (range: zero to 15 pads per day) in 117 patients at three months, 1.9 pads per day (range: zero to seven pads per day) in 92 patients at six months, 1.4 pads per day (range: zero to six pads per day) in 63 patients at 12 months, and 1.2 pads per day (range: zero to six pads per day) in 40 patients at 24 months after surgery.

The Stamey Incontinence grading system was used as subjective assessment tool to confirm the effects of a reduction in daily pad usage. At baseline 37 patients were considered grade 1 (leakage with stressful activities e.g. coughing or sneezing), 33 as grade 2 (leakage with minimally stressful activities e.g. walking) and 47 as grade 3 (leakage at all times with any activity). At 12 months post-implantation the proportion of patients considered as grade 2 or 3 fell to 13% from a baseline of 68%. Similarly the proportion of patients classified as grade 0 or 1 increased from 32% at baseline to 88% at 12 months post-implantation. In both cases the improvements were statistically significant at the  $P < 0.001$  level.

Similarly significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) improvements at all time points for quality of life were observed in these patients. Scores in the IQoL questionnaire (maximum score 100) improved from a baseline mean of 34.7 in 117 men to 64.8 at six months in 92 men, 64.9 at 12 months in 63 men and 66.3 at 24 months in 42 men.



Trigo-Rocha and colleagues in their smaller study were able to provide support for the effects of ProACT Therapy implantation in a sample of 25 patients, of which 23 were followed up for a mean of 22.4 months (range: 6 to 48 months) (Trigo-Rocha *et al.* 2006). In this study, the mean operative time was 35.4 minutes (range: 22 to 58 minutes), a figure similar to Hubner and colleagues (2005). On average, 4.6 adjustments (range: one to seven adjustments) were required to achieve and maintain continence.

Daily pad usage also significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) improved from a mean of  $4.8 \pm 1.7$  pads per day to a mean of  $1.8 \pm 1.6$  pads per day at last follow-up. This translated to 15 men (65%) being considered continent (using zero to one pad daily) and satisfied, three men (13%) considered as having some improvement and being unsatisfied and five men (22%) remaining the same. However no details were provided as to how satisfaction levels were determined.

Not surprisingly this was coupled with a significant increase in IQoL scores which significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) improved from a baseline of  $63.0 \pm 20.4$  to  $82.6 \pm 15.2$  at the last follow-up.

The study also conducted uro-dynamic evaluation (Valsalva leak point pressure, VLPP) to measure the effect that the implant has on urethral resistance and post-void residual urine volume to determine the ability of a patient to empty his bladder. At baseline, the VLPP was  $48.76 \pm 25.4$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O, which improved significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) to  $84.10 \pm 33.5$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O.

There were eight unsatisfied patients, two of which opted for a successful removal of the implants and implantation of an AUS, three awaiting revision surgery to correct balloon migration and a further three considering alternative forms of treatment.

Further work by Gilling *et al.* (2005) detailed in abstract form reports a positive impact of ProACT Therapy implantation on daily pad use and IQoL in 203 patients. The abstract reports a drop in daily pad use from a mean of 4.3 pads per day in 199 men at baseline to 1.8 pads per day in 163 men at six months, 1.5 pads per day in 123 men at 12 months and 1.6 in 52 men at 24 months. This translates to 63% of patients considered dry, using zero to one pad daily at the two year follow-up.

The final two abstracts detailing the impact of the ProACT Therapy system focused on the impact of the implant on attainment of continence and improvement in the IQoL score.

Kestler *et al.* (2006) implanted the ProACT Therapy system in 58 patients (51 post-RP, six post-benign surgery) as part of a multicentre study. Although improvement in the number of daily pads used per patient was not reported, at the median follow-up period of 14 months, 11 patients (19%) were considered dry, 21 patients (36%) improved, 17 patients (29%) unchanged, two patients (3.4%) worse than at baseline and seven patients (12%) had



undergone explantation surgery. The mean IQoL score improved from 45 (range: two to 85) to 61 (range: 17 to 100) at the median-follow-up.

Gilling *et al.* (2006) in a smaller sample of patients (30 post-RP and 7 post-benign surgery) reported daily pad use and IQoL scores separately for both groups of patients to reveal any differences between the two groups. The post-RP patients were followed up for a mean period of 18.9 months and experienced a reduction in mean daily pad use from 2.6 pads per day at baseline to 0.7 pads per day at six months, 0.5 pads per day at 12 months, 0.6 pads per day at 24 months and 0.4 pads per day at 36 months. No statistical analysis was reported. In comparison, the daily pad usage in the post-benign group (mean follow-up 27.8 months) decreased in a similar fashion to the post-RP patients although having slightly higher values at each time point. In this group, pad usage was 3.8 pads per day at baseline, 1.2 pads per day at six months, 1.0 pad per day at 12 months, 1.0 pad per day at 24 months and 0.7 pads per day at 36 months. Improvements in the IQoL scores between both groups followed similar pattern to improvements in daily pad use. Post-RP patients improved IQoL scores from a baseline of 49.6 to 71.7 at six months, 74.9 at 12 months, 70.6 at 24 months and 88 at 36 months. Post-benign patients improved from a baseline of 49.7 to 77.9 at 6 months, 78.6 at 12 months, 76.1 at 24 months and 86.5 at 36 months.

### ***Ethical Issues***

No issues were identified from the retrieved literature.

### ***Cultural or Religious Considerations***

No issues were identified from the retrieved literature.

### ***Other Issues***

Various contraindications for the ProACT system are outlined by the manufacturer, including:

- Active systemic or urinary tract infections
- Unmanageable detrusor instability, reduced bladder compliance
- Residual volume greater than 100ml after voiding
- Pelvic region radiotherapy within 6 months of system implantation
- Bladder cancer
- Unsuccessfully treated bladder stones
- Haemophilia or bleeding disorders

In addition, the manufacturer has outlined that prior to any implantation being performed by a physician, appropriate training is required.



### HealthPACT recommendation:

Although evidence regarding the safety and efficacy of the ProACT Therapy system exists, this evidence is found only in case series studies and abstracts of other studies. One death occurred in one study, which was considered unrelated to treatment. Higher quality studies, preferably randomised controlled trials are required to better evaluate the safety and efficacy of this implant for male stress urinary incontinence. Furthermore in order to accurately compare and combine data from different studies, the terms ‘continence’ and ‘satisfactory’ need to be clearly defined in each study so as to avoid confusion. Based on the lack of information from randomised, controlled trials and the potential to be an alternative form of treatment for male post-prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence, it is recommended the following be conducted:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horizon Scanning Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Health Technology Assessment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitor      | <input type="checkbox"/> Archive                           |

### References:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Understanding your body: What is your prostate? Last updated August 2000. <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/bodysys/edbody13.htm> [Accessed July 2006].

Chiarelli P, Bower W, Wilson A, Attia J, Sibbritt D. Estimating the prevalence of urinary and faecal incontinence in Australia: systematic review. *Australasian Journal on Ageing* 2005;24(1):19-27.

ClinicalTrials.gov ProACT Therapy for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence in males. Last updates January 2006. <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00277095> [Accessed July 2006].

**Gilling PJ, Hubner WA, Trigo-Rocha F, Kocjancic E, Palma P, Schlarp OM. International multi-center study evaluating the Adjustable Continence Therapy (ProACT™) for male post prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence-mid-term results: P85. [Abstract] *BJU International* 2005;95 Supplement 5:70.**



Gilling PJ, Kennett KM, Westenberg AM, Fraundorfer MR, Wilson LM, Bell DF. The adjustable continence therapy (PROACT™) for the treatment of post-prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence: a comparison of two techniques. [Abstract] *BJU International* 2006; 97 Supplement 1:25.

Hubner WA, Schlarp OM. Treatment of incontinence after prostatectomy using a new minimally invasive device: adjustable continence therapy. *BJU International* 2005;96(4):587-594.

Kastler EC, Leuret T, Grise P, Botto H, Delaporte V, Costa P. French multicentric prospective study for treatment of prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence (SUI) using adjustable continence therapy (PROACT). [Abstract] *BJU International* 2006; 97 Supplement 1:25.

National Association for Continence. What is incontinence? Last updated 2005. [http://www.nafc.org/about\\_incontinence/what\\_incontinence.htm](http://www.nafc.org/about_incontinence/what_incontinence.htm) [Accessed July 2006].

Palmer MH, Fogarty LA, Somerfield MR, Powel LL. Incontinence after prostatectomy: Coping with incontinence after prostate cancer surgery. *Oncology Nursing Forum* 2003;30(2):229-238.

Peyromaure M, Ravery V, Boccon-Gibod L. The management of stress urinary incontinence after radical prostatectomy. *BJU International* 2002;90(2):155-161.

Rassweiler J, Teber D, Kuntz R, Hofmann R. Complications of Transurethral Resection of the Prostate (TURP) – Incidence, management and prevention. *European Urology* 2006; [Epub ahead of print].

Sacco E, Prayer-Galetti T, Pinto F, Fracalanza S, Betto G, Pagano F, Artibani W. Urinary incontinence after radical prostatectomy: incidence by definition, risk factors and temporal trend in a large series with a long-term follow-up. *BJU International* 2006;97(6):1234-1241.

Stanford JL, Feng Z, Hamilton AS, Gilliland FD, Stephenson RA, Eley JW, Albertsen PC, Harlan LC, Potosky AL. Urinary and sexual function after radical prostatectomy for clinically localized prostate cancer – The prostate cancer outcomes study. *JAMA* 2000;283(3):354-360.



**Trigo-Rocha F, Gomes CM, Pompeo AC, Lucon AM, Arap S. Prospective study evaluating efficacy and safety of adjustable continence therapy (ProACT) for post radical prostatectomy urinary incontinence. *Urology* 2006;67(5):965-969.**

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Cancer Centers. Prostate cancer. Last updated August 2006. <http://www.upmccancercenters.com/cancer/prostate/incontinence.html> [Accessed August 2006].

US Department of Health and Human Services. Understanding prostate changes: A healthy guide for men. 2004. [http://www.cancer.gov/PDF/4dba13db-81fb-4d8d-9c2d-d0c00a048f57/prostate\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.cancer.gov/PDF/4dba13db-81fb-4d8d-9c2d-d0c00a048f57/prostate_booklet.pdf) [Accessed July 2006].

Uromedica Inc. ProACT Therapy for post-prostatectomy stress incontinence. Last updated March 2006. <http://uromedica-inc.com/ous/proact-physicians> [Accessed July 2006].

#### **Search Criteria:**

A search of MEDLINE, PubMed, *The Cochrane Library*, the Current Controlled Trials metaRegister, the UK National Research Register, the International Network for Agencies for Health Technology Assessments, relevant online journals and the Internet was conducted in July 2006.

Search terms used were:

'ProACT', 'ProACT Therapy', 'stress urinary incontinence', 'urinary incontinence', 'adjustable continence therapy', 'post-prostatectomy incontinence', 'prostatectomy', 'benign prostatic hyperplasia'.

---

This Horizon Scanning Prioritising Summary was prepared by Mr. Luis Zamora from the NET-S Project, ASERNIP-S for the Health Policy Advisory Committee on Technology (Health PACT), on behalf of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC).



## 2007 update

A search of relevant databases, online journals and the Internet was conducted in October 2007, following the recommendation in September 2006 that ProACT Therapy be monitored for 12 months. One non-randomised comparative and one case series study were identified from the available literature.

### Safety

Hubner and Schlarp (2007) implanted the ProACT device in 100 patients suffering urinary incontinence as a result of radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer. The first 50 implanted patients were assigned to group 1 while the second 50 implanted patients were assigned group 2. Implantation of the device occurred without complications in 38 out of 50 patients in group 1 and in 42 out of 50 patients in group 2. Intraoperatively, group 1 patients experienced urethral perforations (n = 4), bladder neck perforations (n = 4), immediate balloon ruptures (n = 2) and balloon migration (n = 2). Meanwhile, group 2 patients experienced nine cases of bladder neck perforations intraoperatively. In terms of complications requiring revision surgery, 12 patients in group 2 compared to 29 patients in group 1 required revision surgery, suggesting that as surgeons' experience increase, patients outcomes improve. Additional adverse events not attributed to either group included device erosion in (n = 2), infection (n = 1) and device migration (n = 1).

Kocjancic and colleagues (2007) conducted a case series investigation of 64 patients implanted with the ProACT device. The authors reported five cases of operative bladder perforation. Postoperatively, 11 complications requiring balloon removal (including erosion, infection, migration and balloon failure) were reported. No further safety data was provided.

### Effectiveness

Although no statistical tests were performed by Hubner and Schlarp (2007), a comparison of operative times suggested that as surgeons gained experience, operative time decreased. Group 1 patients required between 14 and 56 minutes, while group 2 patients required between 12 and 24 minutes for implantation of the device.

Prior to treatment, group 1 and group 2 IQoL scores were  $33 \pm 19.8$  and  $32 \pm 22.7$  respectively. Following implantation, IQoL scores significantly increased in both groups ( $P = 0.0001$  for group 1 and  $P < 0.0001$  for group 2). Similarly, at the three and six month follow-ups, IQoL scores remained significantly improved over baseline in both groups ( $P < 0.0001$ ). At 12 months, IQoL scores were  $64 \pm 24.7$  in group 1 and  $80 \pm 18.2$  in group 2, a significant ( $P < 0.0001$ ) improvement over baseline scores, demonstrating the lasting effect of ProACT therapy on patients' quality of life. At each time point, the IQoL scores were significantly higher in group 2 ( $P < 0.05$ ) demonstrating the effect of experience on patient outcomes.



Similarly, average daily pad use, which at baseline was  $6.34 \pm 4.26$  and  $5.04 \pm 4.37$  in group 1 and group 2 respectively, improved over 12 months. At three months patients in both groups demonstrated a significant ( $P < 0.0001$ ) decrease in daily pad usage with group 2 patients experiencing a significantly greater reduction than group 1 patients ( $P = 0.043$ ). After 12 months the reduction in daily pad usage remained significant ( $P < 0.0001$ ), with group 1 patients requiring an average of  $2.1 \pm 2.1$  pads while group 2 patients required an average of  $1.8 \pm 2.4$  pads. Unlike the IQoL scores, average pad use improvement was not statistically different between groups ( $P = NS$ ).

Kocjancic et al. (2007) implanted the ProACT device in 64 patients in a mean operative time of 19 minutes (range: 12 to 62 minutes), a range similar to that obtained by Hubner and Schlarp (2007). The study used IQoL and daily pad usage as measures of effectiveness, both of which improved significantly over the follow-up periods. IQoL improved from a baseline of 31.7 to  $40.5 \pm 3.29$  at one month ( $P = 0.000063$ ),  $51.3 \pm 23.8$  at three months ( $P < 0.0001$ ) and  $62.5 \pm 25.7$  at six months ( $P < 0.0001$ ). Although an improvement to  $71.1 \pm 23.9$  at 12 months occurred, this was no longer statistically significant compared to the baseline score ( $P = NS$ ).

In terms of daily pad usage, patients experienced an improvement from 5.2 pads per day at baseline, to  $3.55 \pm 3.3$  at one month ( $P = 0.000037$ ),  $2.45 \pm 3.2$  at three months ( $P < 0.0001$ ),  $2.01 \pm 2.8$  at six months ( $P < 0.0001$ ) and  $1.54 \pm 3.0$  at 12 months ( $P < 0.001$ ).

#### **2007 HealthPACT action**

The new evidence published within the last 12 months remains limited by short follow-up periods. The evidence available suggests that the ProACT device is immediately effective in the treatment of urinary incontinence and that this effect may last up to 12 months. However the lack of long term follow-up of patients prevents any assessment of the long term effectiveness of the device. Based on the contradicting evidence with regards to the device's long-term efficacy, and the fact that it is listed in the Prostheses List, ProACT will be monitored for 12 months.

#### **Number of studies included**

Total number of studies	2
Level III-3 intervention evidence	1
Level IV intervention evidence	1

#### **References**

Hubner W, Schlarp O. Adjustable continence therapy (ProACT): Evolution of the surgical technique and comparison of the original 50 patients with the most recent 50 patients at a single centre. *European Urology* 2006; 52(3): 680-683.

Kocjancic E, Crivellaro S, Ranzoni S, Bonvini D, Gontero P, Frea B. Adjustable continence therapy for the treatment of male stress urinary incontinence: A single-centre study. *Scandinavian Journal of Urology and Nephrology* 2007; 41(4): 324-328.



## PRIORITISING SUMMARY (2008 UPDATE)

---

**NAME OF TECHNOLOGY:** PROACT™ THERAPY FOR MALE STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE (UROMEDICA INC., PLYMOUTH, MN, USA)

**PURPOSE AND TARGET GROUP:** MALE PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM LONG-TERM STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE RESULTING FROM SPHINCTER DEFICIENCY FOLLOWING RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY (RP) FOR PROSTATE CANCER OR TRANSURETHRAL RESECTION OF THE PROSTATE (TURP) FOR BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA (BPH).

An additional search of relevant databases, online journals and the Internet was conducted in October 2008, following the recommendation in October 2007 that ProACT Therapy be monitored for a further 12 months. Four new studies were identified for inclusion; one non-randomised comparative study (Crivello et al 2008) and three case series (Gregori et al 2008; Gilling et al 2008; Lebret et al 2008). The three studies providing the best quality new evidence (the comparative study and the two case series with larger sample sizes) were selected for detailed inclusion in this update. However, it should be noted that the smaller case series (11 patients) also presented a new development, by successfully implanting the ProACT device in a day hospital setting using local anaesthesia, rather than general or spinal anaesthesia (Gregori et al 2008).

### 2008 Safety and Effectiveness issues

#### Safety:

A non-randomized comparative study by Crivello et al (2008) compared ProACT therapy to the alternative therapy of a bone anchored male sling (BAMS). Eighty men with stress urinary incontinence following radical prostatectomy were included. Mean age in the ProACT group (n = 44) was 67 (range 45 to 82) years and in the BAMS group (n = 36) was 65 (30 to 81) years. Mean follow-up was 19 months in the ProACT group and 33 months in the BAMS group. Postoperative complications that required removal of the ProACT under local anaesthesia included erosion (n = 2), spontaneous deflation of the balloon (n = 1), infection (n = 1), and migration of the device (n = 2). Four of these six patients underwent a successful reimplantation of the ProACT device and the remaining two has a successful AUS procedure. In the BAMS group, there were two cases of infection that required removal of the sling under general or spinal anaesthesia. The complication rate was not significantly different between groups (13% in ProACT versus 5% in BAMS;  $P > 0.05$ ) (Crivello et al 2008).

In a multicentre case-series, Lebret et al (2008) implanted the ProACT system in 62 patients with stress urinary incontinence following radical prostatectomy (n = 55) (with adjuvant radiotherapy in 12 patients) or high-intensity focused ultrasound (n = 1) for prostate cancer, or transrectal resection (n = 4) or open prostatectomy (n = 2) for benign prostatic hyperplasia. The mean age was 71.1 (range 52 to 87.2) years and the mean time since initial prostate surgery was 4.7 (range 0.5 to 20.6) years. Patients were followed-up



for one year. All patients underwent a successful implantation; however, multiple tract creation or repositioning of balloons was required perioperatively in 34 patients (52%) to achieve optimal placement or as a result of bladder (n = 4) or urethral (n = 2) perforation. Within the first postoperative month, 19 patients required explantation, due to device-related problems (n = 2), infection or erosion (n = 5), migration (n = 1), iatrogenic traumatism (n = 2), or nonresponse (n = 9). Four of these patients were reimplanted with ProACT balloons, and two had AUS implantation. Three of the 62 patients (5%) had persistent urinary retention after catheter removal but this was rectified by deflating the balloons by 1mL (Lebret et al 2008).

Another case series, by Gilling et al (2008), used ProACT therapy in 37 patients with stress urinary incontinence following a prostatectomy (radical retropubic prostatectomy (n = 21), radical perineal prostatectomy (n = 9), or holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (n = 7)). Mean age was 69.9 (range 59 to 79) years and the mean time since the original prostate surgery was 30.8 (range 12 to 105) months. Mean follow-up after the ProACT therapy was 51.5 (24 to 60) months. Four patients withdrew due to recurrent prostate carcinoma (n = 1), moving out of the area (n = 1), migration (n = 1), or infection (n = 1). An AUS was successfully implanted in the two patients with migration or infection who withdrew. Complications included one intraoperative bladder injury which was successfully treated with seven days of catheterisation, three wound infections which required unilateral removal (n = 2) or bilateral removal (n = 1) of the ProACT device, and two device migrations which required bilateral removal (n = 2). The patient with bilateral removal due to infection had an AUS implanted, one patient with unilateral removal had a single balloon re-implantation, and the other with unilateral removal remained continent with a single balloon. Other minor self-limiting complications included transient pain (n = 6), urinary retention (n = 2), urinary tract infection (n = 2) and de-novo urgency (n = 2) (Gilling et al 2008).

### **Effectiveness:**

In the study by Crivello et al (2008), operating time was significantly shorter in the ProACT group than the BAMS group (18 minutes versus 45 minutes;  $P < 0.05$ ). At the last follow-up visit (mean follow-up of 19 months in the ProACT group and 33 months in the BAMS group) 68% of ProACT patients (30/44) and 64% of BAMS patients (23/36) were using one pad or less per day ( $P > 0.05$ ). A further 16% of ProACT patients (7/44) and 22% of BAMS patients (8/36) were using two or more pads per day but had a greater than 50% improvement ( $P > 0.05$ ). The average number of pads decreased from five to two in the ProACT group and from three to one in the BAMS group ( $P > 0.05$ ) at last follow-up. QoL score (the UCLA/Rand cancer prostate index quality of life questionnaire) increased in both the ProACT group (10.2 to 21.9) and the BAMS group (11.9 to 21.9) at last follow-up, although there was no significant difference between groups ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Crivello et al 2008).

Mean procedural time in the study by Lebret et al (2008) was 37 (range 18 to 80) minutes. Seven patients were immediately continent following the procedure, while the remaining 55 required further adjustments. Forty-five of these patients improved after adjustments. Mean daily pad use decreased from 4.6 per day (range 1 to 10) before surgery to 1.8 per day (range 0 to 10) at six months and 1.06 per day (range 0 to 6) at one year post-surgery. After six months, 71% of patients were wearing one pad or less per day. Eighty-nine percent of the 44 patients who had a radical prostatectomy without adjuvant radiotherapy improved, while 83% of the 12 patients who had adjuvant



radiotherapy failed. Mean QoL score (the I-QoL questionnaire) improved from 48 at baseline to 67 at one year post-surgery (Lebret et al 2008).

In the case series by Gilling et al (2008), mean operative duration was 25 (range 13 to 48) minutes, with 89% of men (33/37) requiring further adjustments to the device. At two years after surgery the mean number of pads used per day was  $0.75 \pm 0.86$  (range 0 to 4), which was significantly better than the baseline use of  $2.81 \pm 2.06$  (range 1 to 12) pads per day ( $P < 0.05$ ). The pad-free rate at two years was 62%, with 81% of men using one pad or less. Mean quality of life score (the I-QoL questionnaire) improved from  $49.7 \pm 19.3$  at baseline to  $80.2 \pm 18.1$  at 24 months post-surgery ( $P < 0.05$ ). The pad use and I-QoL scores were significantly better at all measured time points after surgery (3, 6, 12 and 24 months) compared with baseline ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Gilling et al 2008).

### **2008 Summary of findings**

The comparative study by Crivello et al (2008) found that ProACT therapy and BAMS therapy were both associated with success rates (measured by use of one pad or less per day) of approximately 60 to 70% at last follow-up (mean follow-up of 19 months in the ProACT group and 33 months in the BAMS group). The two case series has similar success rates of 71% (at six months follow-up) in the Lebret et al (2008) study and 81% (at 24 months follow-up) in the Gilling et al (2008). The safety and effectiveness of the ProACT and BAMS procedures was not significantly different. However, the ProACT procedure was shorter and less invasive, the device could be adjusted where necessary, and could be explanted using local anaesthetic rather than general or spinal anaesthesia (Crivello et al 2008).

### **2008 HealthPACT Action**

Long-term follow-up evidence (greater than two years) remains limited for the ProACT procedure. However, recent comparative evidence suggests that the therapy achieves similar levels of safety and effectiveness as comparative procedures (such as BAMS), whilst remaining less invasive. Long-term comparative evidence is still required for ProACT therapy, but the potential of the device warrants monitoring for a further 12 months.

### **2008 Number of studies included**

Total number of studies	4
Level III-2 intervention evidence	1
Level IV intervention evidence	3

### **2008 References**

Crivellaro S, Singla A, Aggarwal N, Frea B, Kocjancic E. Adjustable continence therapy (ProACT) and bone anchored male sling: Comparison of two new treatments of post prostatectomy incontinence. *Int J Urol*. 2008, 15(10): 910-914.

Gilling PJ, Bell DF, Wilson LC, Westenberg AM, Reuther R, Fraundorfer MR. An adjustable continence therapy device for treating incontinence after prostatectomy: a minimum 2-year follow-up. *BJU Int*. 2008 June [Epub ahead of print]



Gregori A, Galli S, Kartalas IG, Scieri F, Stener S, Incarbone GP, Gaboardi F. Implantation of an adjustable continence therapy system using local anesthesia in patients with post-radical prostatectomy stress urinary incontinence: a pilot study. *J Urol*. 2008, 179(5): 1902-1906.

Lebret T, Cour F, Benchetrit J, Grise P, Bernstein J, Delaporte V, Chartier-Kastler E, Botto H, Costa P. Treatment of postprostatectomy stress urinary incontinence using a minimally invasive adjustable continence balloon device, ProACT: results of a preliminary, multicenter, pilot study. *Urology*. 2008, 71(2): 256-260.